



*Creating Great Communities For All*  
**Connecticut Chapter of the  
American Planning Association**

February 17, 2023

**Testimony regarding**

**S.B. No. 1001 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS  
AND ALTERNATIVE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS**

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) supports SB 1001 as it would, among other things, increase the capacity by which the Department of Public Health (DPH) would have jurisdiction and the authority to regulate, (1) small community sewage systems from 7,500 gallons or less per day to 10,000 gallons per day, and (2) alternative on-site sewage treatment systems from 5,000 gallons or less per day to 10,000 gallons per day.

Approximately half of our communities, businesses, and households are dependent on on-site wastewater treatment systems (i.e. public sewers are not available). The growth of these communities, particularly for larger multifamily- including critical affordable housing opportunities - and commercial development, depends on a clear, efficient, and predictable permitting process for these systems.

The innovation happening with on-site alternative treatment systems has highlighted their capability to act as a solution to a town's wastewater problem. Currently, DEEP is has been ponderous in approving these systems below 7,500 gallons per day and both communities and developers are incurring ongoing costs trying to comply with DEEP's procedures and timelines.

The technology is available and DPH has proven to be more effective and willing to work with municipalities to address the situation and offer common-sense solutions. In 2017, a similar bill increased the DPH oversight from 5,000 to 7,500 gallons per day, and in the 5+ years since, this oversight has proven to be very effective and efficient. This is why it is both appropriate to again increase their scope of oversight, and just as important to provide them with the necessary resources to accommodate their oversight with the proposed increase in capacity to 10,000 gallons per day.

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**WHO WE ARE**

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) has over 420 members who are governmental and consulting planners, land use attorneys, citizen planners, and other professionals engaged in planning and managing land use, economic development, housing, transportation, and conservation for local, regional, and State governments, private businesses and other entities. CCAPA has long been committed to assisting the legislature and State agencies with developing and furthering responsible growth

management principles. The APA is an independent, not-for-profit, national educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities.

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#### **CONTACTS**

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